



# CITY OF PETALUMA

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Mike Healy  
Councilmember

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California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for volunteering for this very important task in our democratic process. I write to urge you to use the Golden Gate Bridge as a natural break point for the districts you will create for Congress, State Senate and Assembly.

Marin and Sonoma Counties have much in common. They are unusual in California – and unique in the Bay Area – in that their water supplies are completely based on local rivers and creeks, and not even connected with the State Water Project or other supplies in the Sierras. Their water systems are interconnected with each other, however, with local governments working together on many complex water issues that are of little interest to other regions.

Similarly, in 2008 voters in the two county Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (“SMART”) District approved a regional sales tax to support passenger rail between the two counties. The SMART board consists of local elected officials from both counties. Because this system will not connect to other counties, it is of little interest outside the region.

There are other things in common as well. Marin and Sonoma are working together to upgrade Highway 101, the main transportation artery of the North Bay, parts of which have not been touched since the Eisenhower administration. An increasing portion of each county’s workforce commutes from the other. An environmental ethos pervades both counties, with voter approved urban growth boundaries surrounding many cities.

Finally, using the Golden Gate Bridge as a boundary relieves North Bay residents of the arduous task of immersing themselves in the arcane and over-cafeinated politics of San Francisco in order to be represented effectively. Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Mike Healy  
Petaluma City Councilmember

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